

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of
Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
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DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR QUALIFIED UNEMPLOYED WORKERS IN MARENGO COUNTY

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, October 6, 2005Unemployed workers in Marengo County, the latest county declared as a disaster area as a direct result of Hurricane Katrina, may be eligible for benefits under the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program.

“On October 5, Marengo County became the eleventh Alabama county declared as a disaster area due to Hurricane Katrina,” says Phyllis Kennedy, director, Alabama Department of Industrial Relations. “Persons eligible for DUA benefits are those who worked in, or live in, counties declared as disaster areas and became unemployed, or could not engage in their customary self-employment, as a direct result of Katrina.”

Originally, on August 29, three counties were declared as disaster areas: Baldwin, Mobile, and Washington. Seven more counties were added to the disaster areas declaration on September 8: Choctaw, Clarke, Greene, Hale, Pickens, Sumter, and Tuscaloosa.

Claims for DUA benefits may be filed by calling the toll-free number, 1-866-234-5382. Generally, persons who are eligible for state unemployment benefits are not eligible for DUA, but a claimant may qualify for DUA if state UC benefits are exhausted. Self-employed individuals will be requested to provide a copy of their 2004 income tax records. **The final date to file a claim in all 11 of the affected counties is November 30, 2005.**

DUA services are administered by the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations through its network of Unemployment Compensation Call Centers across the state. Funding is provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on DIR visit the Web site:

